

CLAIMS:

1. A jack assembly which includes a contact switching system for receiving a coaxial plug, comprising:

an insulative housing having a plug-receiving chamber with an opening for receiving the coaxial plug in a plug-insertion direction;

5 a fixed terminal mounted on the housing and having a fixed switch contact portion located outside said plug-receiving chamber; and

a movable terminal mounted on the housing and including a spring arm at least partially located inside the plug-receiving chamber in the path of insertion of the coaxial plug and a movable switch contact portion connected to the spring arm for movement therewith
10 into and out of engagement with the fixed switch contact portion of the fixed terminal, the movable switch contact portion being located outside the plug-receiving chamber,

whereby engagement of the coaxial plug with the spring arm inside the plug-receiving chamber is effective to cause the movable switch contact portion of the movable terminal to move relative to the fixed switch contact portion of the fixed terminal outside the plug-
15 receiving chamber.

2. The jack assembly of claim 1 wherein said spring arm of the movable terminal is pivotally movable upon engagement by the coaxial plug, about a pivot axis which extends generally perpendicular to the plug-insertion direction of the coaxial plug.

3. The jack assembly of claim 2 wherein the movable switch contact portion of the movable terminal slides over the fixed switch contact portion of the fixed terminal in a direction generally parallel to the plug-insertion direction of the coaxial plug.

4. The jack assembly of claim 1 wherein the movable switch contact portion of the movable terminal and the fixed switch contact portion of the fixed terminal comprise generally planar plates having interengaging wiping surfaces of substantial size which wipe over each other when the contact portions move relative to each other.

5. The jack assembly of claim 1 wherein said movable terminal is generally U-shaped defining a pair of legs, one leg being fixed to the housing, the other leg forming said spring arm at least partially located inside the plug-receiving chamber in the path of insertion

of the coaxial plug, and said movable switch contact portion extending from the other leg
5 toward the fixed switch contact portion outside the chamber.

6. A jack assembly which includes a contact switching system for receiving a coaxial plug, comprising:

an insulative housing having a plug-receiving chamber with an opening for receiving the coaxial plug in a plug-insertion direction;

5 a fixed terminal mounted on the housing and having a fixed switch contact portion located outside said plug-receiving chamber;

a movable terminal mounted on the housing and including a spring arm at least partially located inside the plug-receiving chamber in the path of insertion of the coaxial plug and a movable switch contact portion connected to the spring arm for movement therewith
10 into and out of engagement with the fixed switch contact portion of the fixed terminal, the movable switch contact portion being located outside the plug-receiving chamber, the spring arm being pivotally movable upon engagement by the coaxial plug about a pivot axis which extends generally perpendicular to the plug-insertion direction of the coaxial plug, the movable switch contact portion being slidable over the fixed switch contact portion of the
15 fixed terminal in a direction generally parallel to the plug-insertion direction of the coaxial plug; and

the movable switch contact portion of the movable terminal and the fixed switch contact portion of the fixed terminal comprising generally planar plates having interengaging wiping surfaces of substantial size which wipe over each other when the contact portions
20 move relative to each other;

whereby engagement of the coaxial plug with the spring arm inside the plug-receiving chamber is effective to cause the movable switch contact portion of the movable terminal to move relative to the fixed switch contact portion of the fixed terminal outside the plug-receiving chamber.

7. The jack assembly of claim 6 wherein said movable terminal is generally U-shaped defining a pair of legs, one leg being fixed to the housing, the other leg forming said spring arm at least partially located inside the plug-receiving chamber in the path of insertion of the coaxial plug, and said movable switch contact portion extending from the other leg
5 toward the fixed switch contact portion outside the chamber.

8. A jack assembly which includes a contact switching system for receiving a coaxial plug, comprising:

an insulative housing having a plug-receiving chamber with an opening for receiving the coaxial plug in a plug-insertion direction;

5 a fixed terminal mounted on the housing and having a fixed switch contact portion;

a movable terminal mounted on the housing and including a spring arm in the path of insertion of the coaxial plug and a movable switch contact portion connected to the spring arm for movement therewith into and out of engagement with the fixed switch contact portion of the fixed terminal, the spring arm being pivotally movable upon engagement by the
10 coaxial plug about a pivot axis which extends generally perpendicular to the plug-insertion direction of the coaxial plug, and the movable switch contact portion being slidable over the fixed switch contact portion of the fixed terminal in a direction generally parallel to the plug-insertion direction of the coaxial plug.

9. The jack assembly of claim 8 wherein the movable switch contact portion of the movable terminal and the fixed switch contact portion of the fixed terminal comprise generally planar plates having interengaging wiping surfaces of substantial size which wipe over each other when the contact portions move relative to each other.

10. The jack assembly of claim 8 wherein said movable terminal is generally U-shaped defining a pair of legs, one leg being fixed to the housing, the other leg forming said spring arm at least partially located inside the plug-receiving chamber in the path of insertion of the coaxial plug, and said movable switch contact portion extending from the other leg
5 toward the fixed switch contact portion outside the chamber.